

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10999 261115Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----119864 261118Z /14

P 261109Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5131  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10999

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, LE, SY  
SUBJECT: LEBANON'S SYRIAN PRESENCE

REF: A) BEIRUT 4946, B) STATE 215078, C) TEL AVIV 10788

1. AS WE INDICATED REF C, ISRAELIS WOULD FAVOR OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ANY THIN-OUT OF SYRIAN TROOPS IN THE LEBANESE COUNTRYSIDE AS WELL AS IN EAST BEIRUT. IN RETURN, WE PRESUME GOI WOULD BE WILLING TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE MARONITE MILITIAS TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWALS. FOR ITS PART, ALTHOUGH THE IDF WOULD PROBABLY NOT STOP ITS INTELLIGENCE-RELATED OVER-FLIGHTS, THE ISRAELIS MIGHT BE CONVINCED TO DO THEIR SHARE BY ELIMINATING PROVOCATIVE FLYOVERS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE SYRIANS TO GRACEFULLY PULL OUT SOME TROOPS FROM LEBANON. IF WE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH SARKIS, CAN EXTRACT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A THIN-OUT (WHICH WOULD SOON BECOME A REALITY), WE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE A PEG TO URGE GREATER MARONITE AND ISRAELI RESTRAINT.

2. ON ANOTHER POINT, WE NOTE ALLUSION IN REF B TO REPORTS  
SECRET

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THAT ISRAELIS CAUTIONING CHRISTIAN MILITIAS TO COOL IT "UNTIL CAMP DAVID ENDS." WE BELIEVE THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE LID ON BEIRUT, REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SUMMIT, TO AVOID FACING THE STARK CHOICES INHERENT IN DEEPER INVOLVEMENT NORTH. WE THINK THAT REFERENCES TO AN ISRAELI "OPTION" IN LEBANON, IF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT FAILS OR FOR SOME

OTHER REASON, ARE BASED MORE ON UNDERSTANDABLE SUSPICION THAN FACT. IF RELATIVE CALM CONTINUES IN BEIRUT, THE ISRAELIS WILL BE QUITE CONTENT TO HAVE THIS SITUATION CONTINUE AND AVOID GETTING FURTHER SUCKED INTO THE LEBANESE MESS.

3. WE HAVE JUST SEEN STATE 217686. ALTHOUGH CONFIDENTIAL SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO A THIN-OUT IN LEBANON SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR WOULD BE BETTER THAN NOTHING, SUCH A PRIVATE PLEDGE WOULD BE FAR LESS LIKELY TO PERSUADE THE GOI TO LEAN MORE ON THE MILITIAS THAN A SYRIAN PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV10999  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Subject:** LEBANON'S SYRIAN PRESENCE  
**TAGS:** PINT, MOPS, LE, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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